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Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------064571 082100Z /64
O 082023Z APR 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0570
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 01325

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, MARR, UNSC, IS, LE, XF, PL, XH
SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON: LEONARD/GUYER CONVERSATION
APRIL 8

1. SUMMARY. UN UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL GUYER TOLD AMB LEONARD APRIL 8 THAT POLAND HAD DECLINED UN REQUEST TO PARTICIPATE IN UN FORCE IN LEBANON (UNIFIL) AND THAT UN DID NOT NOW PLAN TO APPROACH ANY OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN.
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HE ALSO SAID UN PROGRESS REPORT TO BE ISSUED APRIL 10 WOULD NOT RAISE PROBLEM OF INCREASING SIZE OF UNIFIL OR ANY OTHER POTENTIALLY CONTROVERSIAL QUESTION. HE CONFIRMED BEGIN REPLY TO SYG WALDHEIM WOULD NOT BE PUBLISHED BUT PROGRESS REPORT WOULD INCLUDE SUMMARY ALONG WITH TEXT OF WALDHEIM'S LETTER. LEONARD SAID HE HAD URGED WESTERN SC MEMBERS TO SPEAK DURING APRIL 10

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CONSULTATIONS ON ESSENTIALITY OF PALESTINIANS ABIDING
BY CEASEFIRE. END SUMMARY.

2. AMB LEONARD CALLED ON UN USYG GUYER APRIL 8 TO DISCUSS
SC INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 10.
LEONARD SAID SINCE KUWAITI AMB BISHARA HAD REQUESTED
CONSULTATIONS HE ASSUMED HE WOULD SPEAK FIRST AND THAT
OTHERS WITH SIMILAR VIEWPOINT WOULD FOLLOW. GUYER
CONFIRMED THAT BISHARA HAD BEEN "LOBBYING ALL OVER THE
PLACE". LEONARD SAID HE HAD URGED SEVERAL WESTERN
MEMBERS OF COUNCIL TO SPEAK TO EMPHASIZE ESSENTIALITY
OF PALESTINIAN ADHERENCE TO CEASEFIRE. FRENCH, HE
HOPED, WOULD SPEAK ALSO ON BEHALF OF NORWEGIANS AND
WOULD POINT OUT NEED FOR MATCHING OBLIGATIONS ON BOTH
SIDES.

3. GUYER WELCOMED SUCH STATEMENTS. HE TOLD LEONARD THAT
TERZI (PLO) HAD REGISTERED PROTEST PREVIOUS DAY AGAINST
FRENCH FOR ALLEGEDLY BRINGING IN HEAVIER ARMAMENT
THAN NECESSARY. UN HAD TOLD HIM THAT TYPE OF ARMAMENT
IN QUESTION HAD ALSO BEEN USED IN CYPRUS, SO IT WAS
NOTHING NEW. MOREOVER, IT WAS NOT QUESTIONOF WHAT
ARMS THERE WERE BUT OF HOW THEY WERE USED. LEONARD
POINTED OUT THAT PLO HAD NO STANDING TO PROTECT SUCH
MATTER IN ANY EVENT.

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4. GUYER WONDERED WHETHER THERE WAS NEED FOR SPECIAL
SYG MESSAGE TO COUNCIL FOR MONDAY CONSULTATIONS.
LEONARD THOUGHT NOT, THAT THERE WOULD PROBABLY BE
FURTHER CONSULTATIONS SOMEWHAT LATER TO REVIEW SITUATION
AND THAT ATMOSPHERE MIGHT BE MORE SUITABLE THEN TO
TAKE UP SUCH MATTERS AS INCREASE IN UNIFIL'S SIZE
IF THERE HAS BEEN ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL. GUYER AGREED
THAT SYG LETTER THE FOLLOWING WEEK (WHEN HE WOULD BE
BACK IN NEW YORK) MIGHT BE BETTER, BUT HE EXPRESSED
DOUBT THAT THERE WOULD BE SIGNIFICANT ISRAELI
WITHDRAWAL DURING COMING WEEK. HE TERMED ISRAELI
WITHDRAWAL PLAN "A JOKE."

5. IN THIS CONNECTION GUYER CONFIRMED, IN REPLY TO
LEONARD'S QUERY, THAT UN WOULD NOT MAKE BEGIN'S REPLY
TO SYG'S LETTER PUBLIC. SYG'S PROGRESS REPORT ON
UNIFIL WOULD CONTAIN FULL TEXT OF WALDHEIM'S LETTER
BUT ONLY SUMMARY OF BEGIN'S WHICH WOULD REFLECT THE
"MORE POSITIVE ELEMENTS." LEONARD SAID HE UNDERSTOOD
WE WERE STILL ATTEMPTING TO HAVE ISRAELIS ISSUE
PUBLIC STATEMENT WITHOUT THE PROVOCATIVE LANGUAGE
INDICATING THAT WITHDRAWAL IS "CONDITIONAL" ON UNIFIL

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DEPLOYMENT. GUYER COMMENTED THAT ISRAELIS IN FACT
WERE MAKING WITHDRAWAL CONDITIONAL ON OTHER FACTORS
AS WELL, INCLUDING IDF DESIRE TO ACT AS PROTECTORS OF
CHRISTIAN VILLAGES, INTEGRATION OF CHRISTIAN FORCES
INTO LEBANESE ARMY AND DISPERSAL OF PALESTINIANS.
HE SAID THERE WAS WHOLE SERIES OF ACTIONS THEY REQUIRED
FOR WITHDRAWAL TO TAKE PLACE. LEONARD NOTED THAT
THERE WOULD BE MANY STATEMENTS IN SC MONDAY ON NEED

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
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FOR UNCONDITIONAL WITHDRAWAL, WHICH, OF COURSE, WAS
US POSITION ALSO.

6. REFERRING AGAIN TO SYG'S PROGRESS REPORT, GUYER SAID
IT WOULD RAISE NO CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES. IT WAS NOT YET
DECIDED WHETHER IT WOULD INCLUDE SYG'S INTENTION,

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WITH SC'S CONSENT, TO MAKE GEN. ERSKINE PERMANENT
UNIFIL COMMANDER, BUT THEY ASSUMED NO DIFFICULTY ON
THIS IN ANY EVENT. IT WOULD REPORT THAT POLAND
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HAD DECLINED UN REQUEST TO PROVIDE A MINE-CLEARING
UNIT. GUYER REPORTED THAT POLISH RESPONSE HAD
BEEN RECEIVED APRIL 7. POLES HAD SAID THEY WERE
GRATEFUL FOR HAVING BEEN ASKED AND HONORED AT
CONFIDENCE IN THEIR CAPABILITY THAT THIS HAD INDICATED.
HOWEVER, POLISH GOVT HAD RESERVATIONS ABOUT UNIFIL
OPERATION AND OPPOSED ISRAELI AGGRESSIVENESS AND
COULD NOT, THEREFORE, PARTICIPATE.

7. IN DISCUSSION THAT FOLLOWED ON POSSIBLE EE
PARTICIPATION IN UNIFIL, GUYER SAID SYG HAD DECIDED
THERE SHOULD BE NO FURTHER APPROACHES TO OTHER EES.
LEBANESE AMB TUENI, GUYER SAID, HAD INQUIRED AGAIN
ABOUT GETTING AN EE CONTINGENT, ANDPLO AND BISHARA
HAD WONDERED ABOUT CZECH PARTICIPATION. UN HAD EXPLAINED
THAT UN HAD NOT WISHED TO EMBARRASS ANYONE AND HAD NOT,
THEREFORE, APPROACHED CZECHS IN LIGHT OF POSITION
THEY HAD TAKEN IN SC ON ESTABLISHMENT OF UNIFIL.
POLES, ON OTHER HAND, WERE ALREADY IN THE AREA. GUYER
SPECULATED THAT SOVIETS MAY WANT AN EE TO BE ASKED
TO PROVIDE A REGULAR CONTINGENT JUST FOR SAKE OF
PRINCIPLE ON PARTICIPATE IN FUTURE OPERATIONS,
EVEN IF THEY REFUSED NOW. HE THOUGHT THAT ANSWER
POLES HAD GIVEN WOULD APPLY TO OTHER EES AS WELL AND,
IN EVENT OF SOVIETY CRITICISM, COULD SERVE AS GOOD
JUSTIFICATION FOR UN NOT TO APPROACH OTHERS.

8. COMMENT. WITH REF TO PARA 5 ABOVE, WE CONSIDER
IT INEVITABLE THAT PUBLICATION OF WALDHEIM'S
LETTER TO BEGIN AND ONLY SUMMARY OF REPLY WILL
LEAD TO QUESTIONS AND SUSPICIONS ABOUT WHY
TEXT OF LATTER NOT ALSO RELEASED. THIS REINFORCES
OUR CONVICTION THAT IT IS IMPORTANT FOR ISRAEL TO
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RELEASE A PUBLIC STATEMENT ON THIS SUBJECT THAT DOES
NOT CONTAIN SUCH EXPLICIT "CONDITIONAL" LANGUAGE AS
THAT IN BEGIN LETTER.
LEONARD

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